

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-3 (Canceled)

Claim 4 (Currently amended): ~~[[The]]~~ A catalyst support according to claim 22 comprising synthetic silica, with 0.5 - 10 parts of one or more oxides or phosphates of the elements of group IIA, IIIB, IVB, VB, VIB, VIIB, VIII, IB, IIB, IIIA, IVA and the lanthanides, whereby the support is prepared by mixing particulate synthetic silica with particulate oxides or phosphates of the elements of Groups IIA, IIIB, IVB, VB, VIB, VIIB, VIII, IB, IIB, IIIA, IVA and the lanthanides, or with precursors thereof, shaping and calcining to form a finished support having particulate oxide or phosphate domains, wherein the domains are titania and /or zirconium and at least 50% of the titania and/or zirconium dioxide domains in the calcined support are smaller than 2 μm .

Claim 5 (Currently amended): The catalyst support according to claim 4 [[22]], wherein at least 50% of the titania and/or zirconium dioxide domains in the calcined support are smaller than 1 μm .

Claim 6 (Currently amended): The catalyst support according to claim 4 [[22]], wherein at least 50% of the titania and/or zirconium dioxide domains in the calcined support are smaller than 0.8 μm .

Claim 7 (Currently amended): The catalyst support according to claim 4 ~~[[22]]~~, wherein at least 90% of the titania and/or zirconium dioxide domains in the calcined support are smaller than 0.8 μm .

Claims 8- 9 (Canceled)

Claim 10 (Currently amended): ~~[[The]]~~ A catalyst support according to claim 1 comprising synthetic silica, with 0.5 - 10 parts of one or more oxides or phosphates of the elements of group IIA, IIIB, IVB, VB, VIB, VIIB, VIII, IB, IIB, IIIA, IVA and the lanthanides, whereby the support is prepared by mixing particulate synthetic silica with particulate oxides or phosphates of the elements of Groups IIA, IIIB, IVB, VB, VIB, VIIB, VIII, IB, IIB, IIIA, IVA and the lanthanides, or with precursors thereof, shaping and calcining to form a finished support having particulate oxide or phosphate domains, wherein the synthetic silica comprises silica gel.

Claims 11-16 (Canceled)

Claim 17 (Currently amended): ~~[[The]]~~ A catalyst support according to claim 1 comprising synthetic silica, with 0.5 - 10 parts of one or more oxides or phosphates of the elements of group IIA, IIIB, IVB, VB, VIB, VIIB, VIII, IB, IIB, IIIA, IVA and the lanthanides, whereby the support is prepared by mixing particulate synthetic silica with particulate oxides or phosphates of the elements of Groups IIA, IIIB, IVB, VB, VIB, VIIB, VIII, IB, IIB, IIIA, IVA and the lanthanides, or with precursors thereof, shaping and calcining to form a finished support having

particulate oxide or phosphate domains, wherein the zirconium dioxide comprises precipitated zirconium dioxide.

Claim 18 (Currently amended): The catalyst support according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 17, wherein the zirconium dioxide consists of precipitated zirconium dioxide.

Claims 19-20 (Canceled)

Claim 21 (Currently amended): ~~[[The]]~~ A catalyst comprising 5-55 wt. ~~[[-]]~~ % of phosphoric acid, based on the total weight of the dried catalyst, supported on a catalyst support comprising synthetic silica, with 0.5 - 10 parts of one or more oxides or phosphates of the elements of group IIA, IIIB, IVB, VB, VIB, VIIB, VIII, IB, IIB, IIIA, IVA and the lanthanides, whereby the support is prepared by mixing particulate synthetic silica with particulate oxides or phosphates of the elements of Groups IIA, IIIB, IVB, VB, VIB, VIIB, VIII, IB, IIB, IIIA, IVA and the lanthanides, or with precursors thereof, shaping and calcining to form a finished support having particulate oxide or phosphate domains ~~accordint to claim 1.~~

Claims 22-23 (Canceled)